

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 SSC-01 OMB-01

/164 W

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R 071446Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8726

INFO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4081

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POST-ELECTION CABINET CHANGES

1. SUMMARY: POST-ELECTION CABINET RESHUFFLE ANNOUNCED
NOVEMBER 6 AFFECTS ABOUT HALF OF CABINET, AND REPRESENTS
CONSOLIDATION OF CAETANO'S CONTROL. EXPERIENCED MINISTERS
WHO STAUNCH FOLLOWERS OF CAETANO MOVED TO KEY POSTS OF
DEFENSE AND OVERSEAS. APPOINTMENT OF DYNAMIC NEW MINISTER
OF CORPORATIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY DEMONSTRATES PM'S
DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE SOCIAL CONDITIONS. WHILE CONTINUED
FORWARD MOVEMENT ON DOMESTIC SOCIAL ISSUES IS EXPECTED,
THERE ARE FEW PROSPECTS FOR DRAMATIC CHANGE IN POLICIES
RELATING TO OVERSEAS TERRITORIES OR DEFENSE AFFAIRS.
END SUMMARY.

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2. CABINET RESHUFFLE, ANTICIPATED FOR POST-ELECTION

PERIOD, ANNOUNCED LATE NOVEMBER 6, WITH NEW APPOINTEES TO TAKE OFFICE NOVEMBER 7. CHANGES MADE IN 14 OUT OF 30 CABINET POSITIONS WITH SOME RESTRUCTURING OF MINISTRIES PARTICULARLY IN SOCIAL SECTOR AND MILITARY.

3. DEPARTURE OF SALAZARIST INTERIOR MINISTER REPAZOTE, WHO FOR MANY A SYMBOL OF PRE-CAETANO PERIOD, IS SIGNIFICANT. HIS REPLACEMENT IS MOREIRA BAPTISTA, A CLOSE CAETANO ASSOCIATE. IN OBVIOUS PR EFFORT TO PUT A BETTER FACE ON INTERIOR MINISTRY, GOP HAS DISPLAYED AVUNCULAR MOREIRA BAPTISTA IN SERIES OF TV CHATS OVER PAST YEAR.

4. IN MILITARY FIELD, LONG-TIME (1965-73) OVERSEAS MINISTER SILVA CUNHA MOVED TO DEFENSE. HE WILL BE FIRST CIVILIAN DEFENSE MINISTER IN SEVERAL DECADES (ALTHOUGH SALAZAR HELD DEFENSE PORTFOLIO DURING WWII AND AT OUTSET OF AFRICAN INSURGENCEY (1961-62).

5. TO BALANCE NAMING OF CIVILIAN TO DEFENSE MINISTRY, PM UPGRADED ARMY TO SEPARATE MINISTRY, HOWEVER NAMING TO ARMY MINISTRY POSITION RETIRED AND UNREMARKABLE FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF ANDRADE E SILVA. OTHER MILITARY CHANGES INCLUDE NEW UNDER SECRETARY OF ARMY COLONEL VIANA LEMOS AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AIR, GENERAL TELLO POLLERI.

6. POWERFUL KEY MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS GOES TO BALTASAR REDELO DE SOUSA, LONG-TIME CAETANO ASSOCIATE, FORMER MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNOR-GENERAL, AND (1970-73) MINISTER OF CORPORATIONS, WELFARE, HEALTH AND ASSISTANCE. REBELO DE SOUSA HAS PROVED TO BE A LACK-LUSTER ADMINISTRATOR, AND HIS APPOINTMENT SUGGESTS GREATER CONTROL BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON OVERSEAS POLICY.

7. SOCIAL WELFARE FIELD. PROGRESSIVE ACTIVIST SILVA PINTO, FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR LABOR AND WELFARE, NAMED MINISTER OF CORPORATIONS AND SOCIAL SECURITY. "SOCIAL SECURITY" LABEL IS NEW, AND MAY PRESAGE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONWIDE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM LONG ADVOCATED BY SEDES LIBERALS AND SUPPORTED BY AND IN PRE-ELECTION CAMPAIGNING LED
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BY SILVA PINTO HIMSELF. SILVA PINTO ASSISTED BY BRILLIANT, YOUNG (32) DURATE IVO CRUZ AS UNDER SECRETARY FOR SOCIAL SECURITY. HEALTH MINISTRY REGAINS INDEPENDENT STATUS WITH NOMINATION OF CLEMENTE ROGEIRO, CAETANO ASSOCIATE AND HEAD OF NATIONAL BROADCASTING SERVICE 1970-73.

8. OTHER APPOINTMENTS: PEDRO PINTO AS SECSTATE FOR

INFORMATION AND TOURISM; PINTO IS CAREER DIPLOMAT, ASSISTED IN TALKS WITH US ON AZORES IN 1970 AND SINCE 1971 HAS BEEN GOP CONSUL GENERAL IN PARIS. ANTONIO LINO NETO AS MINISTER OF JUSTICE; NETO IS EXPERIENCED JURIST AND MEMBER OF CORPORATE CHAMBER.

9. COMMENT:

A. THIS RESHUFFLE REPRESENTS FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF CAETANO'S HOLD ON GOVERNMENT. BOTH OLD AND NEW FACES HAVE CLEAR TIES TO PM, AS HAS BEEN AMPLY BROUGHT OUT IN POST-RESHUFFLE PRESS ACCOUNTS.

B. DEPARTURE OF RAPAZOTE FROM CABINET LEAVES ONLY TWO SALAZAR MINISTERIAL APPOINTEES, CRESPO IN NAVY/MERCHANT MARINE AND SILVA CUNHA NOW IN DEFENSE. RAPAZOTE DEPARTURE AND RETENTION EDUCATION MINISTER VEIGA SIMAO SEEN AS VICTORY FOR LIBERAL ELEMENTS OF REGIME.

C. HEALTH AND SOCIAL SECURITY ARE IMPORTANT ISSUES IN PORTUGAL, AND APPOINTMENT OF DYNAMIC, FORWARD THINKING SILVA PINTO AS LEADER IN THIS FIELD SHOWS CAETANO'S DETERMINATION TO CONTINUE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SOCIAL BENEFITS. (DROPPING ANTIQUE DENOMINATIONS OF "SOCIAL WELFARE" AND "PUBLIC ASSISTANCE" WILL BE SEEN AS FORWARD STEP.)

D. POSSIBLY MOST SIGNIFICANT ASPECT OF RESHUFFLE IS FACT THAT GEN. SPINOLA, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM GOVERNORSHIP AND COMMAND IN GUINEA, IS NOT THERE. (SOME SAY HE WAS OFFERED DEFENSE BUT REFUSED, HOPING FOR OVERSEAS.) FOR MOST OBSERVERS APPEARANCE OF SPINOLA IN CABINET, PARTICULARLY AS OVERSEAS OR DEFENSE MINISTER, WOULD HAVE POINTED TO SUBSTANTIAL POLICY CHANGES.
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